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October 13, 1999

KEVIN MORRIS
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
PO BOX 312
ST ALBANS, VERMONT 05478

RE: Site Management Activity Completed, Norton Border Station, Rt 147
SMS Site #91-1099
Norton, Vermont

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has reviewed the June 9, 1999 report titled, "*Investigation of Subsurface Petroleum Contamination at Norton Border Station* " prepared by Griffin International for work conducted at the above referenced site. The SMS has also reviewed information contained in the site file. With this information, the SMS can now make the following conclusions:

- On August 16, 1991 one 500 gallon fuel oil underground storage tank (UST) was removed from the U.S. Border Patrol station on Route 147 in Norton. During the UST removal, approximately 1/8" of free product was noted floating on groundwater in the tank cavity. 4 test pits were dug by backhoe around the former tank location to a depth of 7'. The water table was not encountered in these test pits, however no elevated volatile organic compound (VOC) levels were noted by photoionization detector (PID). A sheen was noted on the Coaticook River approximately 100' down-gradient, although no seeps or staining were noted in the river bank adjacent to the site. Additional site investigation was required.

- Approximately 20 yd^3 of soil surrounding the UST was found to be contaminated with petroleum compounds at concentrations of 28 to 60 parts per million (ppm), as measured with a PID. This soil was polyencapsulated and stock piled on site. It was screened in June 1992 and subsequently trucked off site and used by the VAOT.

- One soil boring was advanced on April 26, 1999 near the former tank location. Split spoon samples from 0-2', 5-7', 10-12', and 15-17' below ground surface (bgs) had no odors and maximum PID readings of 0.1 ppm. The drill cuttings from approximately 8' had a

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slight odor and a PID reading of 3 ppm. A shallow, perched groundwater layer was encountered at approximately 8' bgs. A clay layer was noted between 10 and 17'. A deeper aquifer was noted below the clay layer; this water layer was located at the approximate level of the Coaticook River. Because of the low PID reading, a soil sample was collected instead of installing a monitor well. The bore hole was plugged with bentonite clay and backfilled.

- A soil sample was collected from 14-15' bgs and analyzed for VOCs via EPA Methods 8021B and 8015. No detectable concentrations of petroleum contamination were found in this sample.

- A dry groundwater monitor well was noted down-gradient of the tank location. The Customs building is served by a water supply well inside the building and in an apparent up-gradient location. This water supply well was sampled and analyzed for VOCs via EPA Method 524.2. No target VOCs were detected.

- Both site buildings are of slab on grade construction, which is not at risk from contamination from this site. The Coaticook River was inspected for sheens and none were found.

- Based on the information contained in the Griffin International report and site file, no unacceptable risk to human health and the environment is present due to any residual contamination remaining in the ground from the removed USTs.

Based on the above, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMAC designation does not release the General Services Administration of any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination onsite. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the 1991 UST removal.

If the monitoring well is no longer used or maintained, then it must be properly closed to eliminate a possible conduit for contaminant migration into the subsurface. This closure typically involves filling the wells with a grout material to prevent fluid migration in the borehole. Specific requirements for well closure are outlined in Section 12.3.5 in Appendix A of the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21.

Please feel free to call with any questions.

Sincerely,

George Desch, Chief, P.E.
Sites Management Section

CC: Norton Selectboard
Howard Reid, Reid's Building Services
Roland Grenier, DEC Regional Engineer, Region 7
Beth Stopford, Griffin International

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